

**From:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mask Mandate SD68  
**Date:** October 4, 2021 4:23:10 PM

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**From:** Louise Gilfoy <>

**Sent:** October 2, 2021 8:34 AM

**To:** Bill Robinson <[Bill.Robinson@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Bill.Robinson@sd68.bc.ca)>; Charlene Mckay <[Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca)>; Routley, Douglas <[d.routley@leg.bc.ca](mailto:d.routley@leg.bc.ca)>; Routley.MLA, Douglas <[douglas.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:douglas.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca)>; Scott Saywell <[SSaywell@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:SSaywell@sd68.bc.ca)>; Stephanie Higginson <[Stephanie.Higginson@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Higginson@sd68.bc.ca)>; Chantel O'Neill <[Chantel.Oneill@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Chantel.Oneill@sd68.bc.ca)>; Elaine Wilkinson <[Elaine.Wilkinson@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Elaine.Wilkinson@sd68.bc.ca)>; Greg Keller <[Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca)>; Jessica Stanley <[Jessica.Stanley@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Stanley@sd68.bc.ca)>; Tania Brzovic <[Tania.Brzovic@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Tania.Brzovic@sd68.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Mask Mandate SD68

**CAUTION:** External Message

I'm happy to see Bonnie Henry reluctantly (voice shaking was an indicator she didn't want to) but finally implemented a k-12 mask mandate. That's a small layer of protection.

I'd like to see hepa air filters and rapid tests invested in. Ontario is doing well compared to BC when it comes to COVID likely because they've been proactive versus reactive. They've invested in air filtration including these stand alone hepa air filtration units in classrooms. I would like our classrooms have these or similar units:

<https://www.austinair.ca/products/healthmate-hm400-standard-air-purifier>

I'd also like to see rapid tests used. They are 90% effective in picking up infection on those who are symptomatic. We have 2 million of them collecting dust in provincial storage. Why? In my kids class yesterday multiple kids were missing due to being sick. I have no way of knowing if these kids have covid or if my kids have been exposed. The province has announced an inadequate notification system that will be up dated infrequently and vaguely. So now everyone is still replying on the grassroots BC Covid Tracker which is simply two moms doing the work that the province should be doing. Working in my job, I can tell you contact tracers cannot keep up with the volume of contacts they have to notify. So as much as the province might want to say they're doing a great job, they're not. Because frontlines can't keep up.

Here's a great article out today by Penny Daflos:

[https://bc.ctvnews.ca/b-c-struggling-ontario-succeeding-are-schools-the-key-to-lower-covid-rates-1.5608531?utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR3mYt41B5L4g5Z\\_4NrQkICGbAO7ClKQrUNMuJOSK5rLiydq8ZoHPTvTAc](https://bc.ctvnews.ca/b-c-struggling-ontario-succeeding-are-schools-the-key-to-lower-covid-rates-1.5608531?utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR3mYt41B5L4g5Z_4NrQkICGbAO7ClKQrUNMuJOSK5rLiydq8ZoHPTvTAc)

Please consider rapid tests and hepa filters immediately.

Thank you,

Louise Gilfoy

On Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 8:45 PM Louise Gilfoy <[louisegilfoy@gmail.com](mailto:louisegilfoy@gmail.com)> wrote:

Addendum:

While we were off for that 72 hours is when I bought the rapid tests. My older son early in the week had a PCR test. It was my younger son later in the week that I used the rapid test on.

It is wildly cumbersome to get a test done. Wrong or not, it deters people from booking in and simply sending their kids to school with a bunch of meds in their system to cover up symptoms.

That is reality.

On Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 8:36 PM Louise Gilfoy <[louisegilfoy@gmail.com](mailto:louisegilfoy@gmail.com)> wrote:

Burnaby became the third school district today to adopt a masking policy for k-3. They held a special meeting today to do so.

I am asking you to hold a special meeting this coming week to vote on the same thing.

Surrey has gone even further and will be doing rapid tests. I had to have my 7 year old out for 72 hours of school while we waited for testing and results last week for a PCR test. I had to call in sick for work - leaving my colleagues short staffed. I bought rapid tests online during that 72 hours as a back up instead of doing this ridiculous song and dance each time my kids have mild symptoms. \$15 per test! His test was negative. Then later in the week my 4 year old came down with sniffles and a low grade fever. I did a rapid test which was negative. His symptoms quickly went away. He would have qualified for a PCT test but that would have meant more sick calls into work and missed days of school for him.

The province has been given 2.8 million rapid tests from the federal government yet has only used 125,000 of them. I cannot understand why we are not using them on symptomatic kids at school or adopting programs like what Quebec and Nova Scotia have going on. They are 90% effective in catching covid on symptomatic people.

In my work, I have seen quite a few parents (mostly unvaccinated) who have become very ill after their kids brought covid home. Prevention of the spread of covid should be key and it should not be relied upon to "vaccinate our way out of this." I cared for a 31 week pregnant with twins mom who wound up in the ICU after her daughter brought it from school. I cared for entire families who have wound up sick after being infected likely after school. Another client is a single mom and her teen brought it home. She's been in the media about it and remains in the ICU. Agree with people or not on vaccines, shrugging shoulders and essentially saying "well you chose not to vaccinate" is incredibly callous of our elected and appointed officials.

I am asking you to hold this special meeting as well as ask the provincial government for rapid tests to be used in our schools. It is unfair and unethical they are being withheld from the

public.

Thank you,  
Louise Gilfoy

On Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 7:00 PM Louise Gilfoy <[louisegilfoy@gmail.com](mailto:louisegilfoy@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi there,

When will you be adopting a mask mandate for all schools in our district? I work with COVID patients and I understand how it transmits.

I'd like to see you do more than the bare minimum that our PHO has been doing.

My 4 year old and my 7 year old both wear their masks all day at school and they are two of only a few who wear masks. This is completely unfair to them and to their teachers that no one else is wearing a mask.

My children are too young to get a vaccine. I am asking YOU to pass a mask mandate as Surrey and Vancouver's school boards have done. Every day I send my kids to school feels like Russian Roulette for if they get COVID and if they wind up with long haul COVID - which will without a doubt cause many headaches for schoolboards, kids and parents for years to come with cognitive impairment.

Protect our Nanaimo-Ladysmith kids and pass a mask mandate.

Louise Gilfoy  
Registered Nurse  
Mom of two at Quarterway Elementary

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